as Tahsildar in connection with puduval and poramboke work and his civil work as Munsiff suffered considerably during the period of circuit. Some relief in his magisterial work was effected by investing the local Deputy Tahsildar with magisterial powers. He particularly referred to the difficulty experienced in postponing auction sales connected with civil cases, when the Tahsildar was out on circuit. Further, relief in the matter of obtaining attachments and arrests before judgment, etc., if delayed on account of the absence of the Munsiff, was not easily obtainable as the parties had the chance of evading the process by going to the adjacent British District. There were 1,186 suits, including civil as well as small cause, from Kumbham 1090 to Kumbham 1091 and that should be sufficient work for a full-time Munsiff. But if it was considered to be insufficient, the Munsiff, who was also a First Class Magistrate, might be invested with the power of disposing of appeals from the subordinate Magistracy. The Member therefore prayed that the Munsiff-Magistrate might be divested of his revenue functions.

Dewan's reply.—The civil work in the taluk is only very light. Ordinarily, Division Assistants alone are invested with appellate powers. The Government have not so far felt that the duties now vested in the Tahsildar are too heavy for a single officer, considering the condition of the taluk. There is therefore no necessity to divest the Tahsildar-Magistrate of his revenue functions.

43. Establishment of a First Class Magistrate's Court in the Minachil taluk.

Mr. Ulahannan Ulahannan (Member, Minachil taluk) said that there were many cases in the taluk cognisable by a First Class Magistrate and the people had now to go to Kottayam to file those cases. There were First Class Magistrates at Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha, Vaikam and Changanachery, and considering the comparative importance of the Minachil taluk, it also deserved one. He therefore prayed that a First Class Magistrate's Court should be established there or that the local Tahsildar-Magistrate might at least be invested with first class powers.

Dewan's reply.—Kottayam is only 17 miles from Minachil and there is motor service between the two places. It is not therefore necessary to have a separate First Class Magistrate at Minachil.

44. Establishment of a Magistrate's Court, Police Station and a Market at Kalavur.

Mr. N. Nilakanta Kaimal (Member, Shertalay taluk) said that there were at present a First Class Magistrate's Court and a Sub-Magistrate's Court at Shertalay and a Sub-Magistrate's Court at Arukutti. The Tahsildar of the taluk had no Devaswomsing under him and could find enough time to attend to magisterial work. It was therefore unnecessary to have a Sub-Magistrate's Court also at Shertalay. Kalavur was situated between Alleppey and Shertalay. It had a Sub-Registrar's office, a schools, and other Government institutions. If the Sub-Magistrate's Court at Shertalay were shifted to Kalavur, it would afford greater facilities to the inhabitants of the southern portion of the taluk.

He also prayed that a police station and a market should be established at Kalavur.

Dewan's reply.—Kalavur is under the jurisdiction of the Alleppey Town First Class Magistrate and it is only six miles from Alleppey. No separate Magistrate's Court is therefore necessary at Kalavur. There is a Police out-post and a market at Mannancheri, which is only two miles from Kalavur, and these should serve Kalavur also.

45. The necessity for establishing a First Class Magistrate's Court at Alwaye and shifting the Parur District Court to Alwaye.

Mr. Kunju Khadir Pillai (Member, Alangad taluk) said that the First Class Magistrate's Court, recently sanctioned at Perumpavur, was not opened till now for want of a building. The old taluk office buildings at Alwaye were lying vacant and the court might be located there to the advantage of the Government and the people. Further, Alwaye was centrally situated and was better suited for the location of the court on sanitary grounds and the convenience of the people resorting to it. He

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requested that the District Court might be re-transferred to Alwaye and if that considered inexpedient, that the First Class Magistrate's Court recently sanctioned for Perumpavur might be located at Alwaye.

Dewan's reply.—The necessity for a First Class Magistrate's Court for the northernmost taluks was urged at the previous sessions of the Assembly. During recent tour to North Travancore, from the addresses presented to me and certain petitions received and also from the conversation I had with the people, I was convinced of the need for the First Class Magistrate's Court. I also thought that the Court should be centrally situated in respect of the taluks of Alangad, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha. In this view, Perumpavur was chosen for the location of the Court. Perumpavur is only 10 miles from Alwaye. There would be a Division First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumpavur and the Tahsildar recently transferred Parur has also first class powers. The Parur District Court also is situated at a distance of only 10 miles from Alwaye and it is impossible to shift it from there for several reasons. The Government do not therefore think it necessary or desirable to make any changes in the present arrangement of courts.

(4) Civil Justice.

The inconvenience and hardship caused to parties by the commissioners appointed by civil courts.

Mr. Vikraman Velayudhan Unnithan (Member, Quilon taluk) said that in the matter of appointment of commissioners, the lower courts did not follow the procedure prescribed by the High Court. The Government had more than once instructed the High Court about the necessity for appointing proper men as commissioners and the High Court had also issued circulars on the subject. But there was no end to the trouble to the people at the hands of the commissioners. In many cases, men without any knowledge of the methods of valuation of trees and without proper education were deputed as commissioners. They often took the side of the parties at whose instance they were appointed, but could be won over to the other side if they were paid more. In brief, the people suffered untold hardship and needless expenditure in the matter. The Member also complained about the inordinate delay in the submission of their reports and about the unsatisfactory manner in which these were prepared by some of the inexperienced and irresponsible commissioners. [illegible] Court [illegible] matter of [illegible] commission fees. There was also no uniformity in the matter of levying commissions of foreign [illegible]. He therefore requested that experienced vakils attached to the several courts, or respectable landholders, a list of whom might be kept in each court with the previous approval of the High Court, might be appointed as commissioners. In any case, it should be provided that the reports of the commissioners should be attested by respectable ryots of the locality paying a Sirkar tax of Rs. 50 and upwards. That at least would act as a check on the vagaries of the commissioners.

Dewan's reply.—The High Court have already issued stringent instructions to appoint as commissioners respectable and competent men, who would be acceptable to both parties. The representations of the Member will again be brought to their notice for such action as may be practicable in view to minimise the evils complained of.

47. Inconvenience to parties in the execution of decrees.

Mr. Koyakutti Mahomed Kunju (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) complained about the delay in the granting of copies of decrees from courts. The delay in some cases exceeded six months and the judgment-debtors alienated their properties in the meantime. He also complained about the delay in the issue of warrants for the arrest of decree-debtors. The delay enabled them to obtain a knowledge of the proceedings and to remain in hiding. He next referred to the large number of processes entrusted to a single process-server and said that the procedure resulted in unsatisfactory and ineffective service. Lastly, the Member adverted to the scant attention now paid by the courts in the disposal of execution cases. He therefore requested that orders might be issued to grant copies of decrees

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